

Ephesians 2

In Christ; Grace

I. Additional Scriptures/Notes...

01. **Chapter 2...** “Paul's theme in this chapter continues to be the glorious blessings of the saved 'in Christ,' as contrasted with their former state of being without any hope whatever. Those who were once 'dead in sins' are now alive in Christ (Eph. 2:1-10); and those who were once 'aliens and strangers separated from God' are now members of God's family (Eph. 2:11-22).” [Coffman].
02. **2:5... Even when we were dead in sins**—“The person who is a sinner is DEAD as far as God is concerned. In the Bible death does NOT imply unconsciousness, or annihilation, or going out of existence. Both the good and evil are still conscious after physical death (Rev 6:9-10; Luke 16:22-24; Isa 14:9-10). Death is simply a COMPLETE CHANGE OF RELATIONSHIPS, or a SEPARATION from former relationships. ... Now when a person is dead in sins, he can still walk around among us. But he is as cut off from God as a man in the grave is cut off from us” [Wilbur Fields, *The Glorious Church*, p. 56].
03. **2:6... ..and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus**—“He calls the church its principles, services, promises, all of which are enjoyed in Christ, heavenly places. The church of God is the reign of heaven on earth. The truth, services, and hopes are all heavenly. The temper to be cultivated is heavenly” [David Lipscomb, *A Commentary on the New Testament Epistles*, Volume IV, p. 42].
04. **2:8... For by grace are ye saved through faith**—“THE FAITH. God's grace is revealed in the gospel (the faith - Gal 1:11, 23). We are saved by grace *through the faith*. The grace of God teaches (Titus 2:11-12). When we hear the word of his grace Acts 20:32), and obey it (Rom 6:17-18), we are his children” [Harold Littrell, *English Study Bible*, footnote, p. 313]. The *Textus Receptus* does have the definite article before *pisteos*, “faith.”
05. **2:10... For we are his workmanship...**—“One who is a Christian works under the same imperative compulsion as that which rested upon the Christ who said, **We must work the works of him that sent me** (John 9:4). Any theory which divorces the works a Christian must do from having any connection with his salvation is a false theory. It is true, to be sure, that even the good works of Christians are in no sense adequate grounds of God's justification lavished upon them in Christ; but they are conditions antecedent to eternal life, which may indeed, for cause, be waived by the Father in love, but which may not, under any circumstances, be rejected with impunity by arrogant man who simply decide they will do it 'by faith alone’” [Coffman].
06. **2:11-12...** “There is a progression in these two verses describing the pre-Christian state of Gentile Christians. Physically they lacked the ancient sign of the covenant; politically they had no part in Israel's national or religious life, and spiritually they had no knowledge of the true God” [Coffman].
07. **2:14... For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition**—“This is a picture from the Temple. The Temple consisted of a series of courts, each one a little higher than the one that went before, with the Temple itself in the inmost of the courts. First there was the Court of the Gentiles; then the Court of the Women; then the Court of the Israelites; then the Court of the Priests; and finally the Holy Place itself. Only into the first of them could a Gentile

come. Between it and the Court of the Women there was a wall, or rather a kind of screen of marble, beautifully wrought, and let into it at intervals were tablets which announced that if a Gentile proceeded any farther he was liable to instant death. Josephus, in his description of the Temple, says: 'When you went through these first cloisters unto the second court of the Temple, there was a partition made of stone all round, whose height was three cubits. Its construction was very elegant; upon it stood pillars at equal distances from one another, declaring the law of purity, some in Greek and some in Roman letters that no foreigner should go within the sanctuary' (The Wars of the Jews, 5, 5, 2). In another description he says of the second court of the Temple: 'This was encompassed by a stone wall for a partition, with an inscription which forbade any foreigner to go in under pain of death' (The Antiquities of the Jews, 15, 11, 5). In 1871 one of these prohibiting tablets was actually discovered, and the inscription on it reads: 'Let no one of any other nation come within the fence and barrier around the Holy Place. Whosoever will be taken doing so will himself be responsible for the fact that his death will ensue'" [William Barclay, *Daily Study Bible*].

08. 2:22... In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit—"In Christ all the building (or each several building) is fitly framed together. (This same expression is used in 4:16 to describe the church as the body of Christ.) Truly the enmity between Jews and Gentiles, and the enmity between all men and God is broken down in the church, and thus every part is FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER into one structure. It is necessary for it to be FITLY FRAMED TOGETHER before it will grow" [Wilbur Fields, *The Glorious Church*, p. 74].

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Church.**

III.

Summary. From: Roy C. Deaver, "The Church of Christ—And the Book of Ephesians," in *The Church of Christ—Essential, All-Sufficient, Indestructible, Perpetually Relevant*, edited by Thomas B. Warren, pp. 306ff]. FROM CHAPTER TWO, we learn the following about the church: It is composed of those who have been MADE ALIVE—who have been RAISED from the dead. It is a marvelous demonstration of God's power. It is composed of those who have made the proper response to God's love and grace. It is a marvelous demonstration of God's love. It is God's workmanship. It is His creation. It is God's means of accomplishing 'good works'—His works. It is composed of people whose lives in it are in marvelous contrast to their lives outside. It is the sacred realm of purity. It is spiritual Israel. It is the realm of nearness to God. It is the realm of sacred peace. It is the realm of blessed unity. It is the area of heavenly citizenship. It is God's household—God's family. It is God's dwelling place—God's holy temple.

IV. Outline.

1. ALIVE through the saving grace of God (2:1-10).
 - 1) Before the gospel, these Christians and we were walking according to the spirit of disobedience (1-3).
 - 2) BUT, God made them/us alive together with Christ by grace (4-7).
 - 3) It is by grace through THE FAITH that we are saved (8-9).
 - 4) We are His workmanship (10).
2. Both Jew and Gentile are reconciled together in ONE BODY (2:11-22).
 - 1) The terrible description of separation from God (11-12).

- 2) BUT, now IN CHRIST, the middle wall of partition is broken down, granting ACCESS (13-18).
- 3) No more strangers, but fellowcitizens (19).
- 4) The habitation of God (20-22).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Reconciliation of Jew and Gentile is accomplished in one body.
02. _____ Gentiles were aliens from the commonwealth of Israel.
03. _____ The word CONVERSATION in this chapter means talking to someone.
04. _____ There is nothing in this chapter about spiritual growth.
05. _____ The word ONLY is used in this chapter to modify GRACE.

MATCHING

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A. Fellowcitizens | F. Quickened with Christ |
| B. Abolished | G. Christ's blood |
| C. Boast | H. Works |
| D. Save ourselves | I. Still in effect |
| E. Dead by sins | J. Acquainted |

06. _____ Were dead in sins, but now,
07. _____ No more strangers and foreigners, but
08. _____ If saved by meritorious works, we could
09. _____ The law of commandments
10. _____ We are able to draw nigh because of

Fill in the Blanks

11. How thankful we need to be that our God is rich in _____.
12. In the Old Testament, Solomon built a temple for the Lord; in Ephesians, Paul told Christians they were the _____ of God through the _____.
13. God raised us up to sit together in _____ places in _____.
14. _____ is the frightening position of those who are outside of Christ.
15. Paul tells us that Jesus came and preached _____ to the Gentiles.

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be found on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Questions on Ephesians 1... [(1) True, Ephesians 1:6; (2) True, 10; (3) False, 13; (4) True, 15; (5) True, 22-23; (6) B, Eph 1:3; (7) A, Eph 1:7; (8) E, Eph 1:13; (9) C, Eph 1:18; (10) D, Eph 1:22; (11) above, dominion, name, Eph 1:21; (12) praise, grace, Eph 1:6; (13) saints, Ephesus, 1; (14) an, inheritance, 11; (15) cease, thanks, 16.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **Children of Wrath** (2:3)—“The fact that we were BY NATURE children of wrath does not imply that we were born into the world with God's wrath upon us because of some guilt we inherited from Adam. NATURE here refers to conduct practiced so long and habitually that it has become our natural way of living. The apostle speaks of men being by nature children of wrath as the effect (rather than the cause) of our trespasses and sins. The quibble advanced by some theologians that, 'We are not sinners because we sin; we sin

because we are sinners,' lays all the blame for our sins upon Adam (or upon GOD) instead of upon ourselves where it belongs. Numerous passages teach that children are NOT BORN CONDEMNED and subject to God's wrath (Matthew 19:14; Romans 5:18, etc.)" [Fields, p. 58].

2. **For we are his workmanship...** (2:10)--"We were created by God through Christ Jesus for good works. This CREATION refers to our spiritual creation, which took place at conversion (2 Cor 5:17). If we do not do good works, we defeat God's purpose in giving us His favor. God made many preparations (such as sending Christ, the Holy Spirit, etc.) that all whom He would save should live doing good works" [Fields, p. 62].
3. **For he is our peace...** (2:14)--"For Christ is the author of the peace that we have with one another and with God. He has made both Jew and Gentile to be one people of God, and He has abolished the law of Moses which served as a partition between Jews and Gentiles for centuries" [Fields, p. 67].
4. **Abrogation of the Law of Moses** (Eph 2:14-16).
 - 1) Two aspects of reconciliation: Man to God; Jew to Gentile.
 - 2) The WHAT—Enmity, Law of Commandments...
 - 3) The WHERE—At the Cross (16).
 - 4) The WHY—To make ONE from two: Jew and Gentile.
 - 5) In verse 15, the one new man is the church.
5. **The Essentiality of Being in the Church** (Eph 2:16 + 1:22-23).
 - 1) Singular in number.
 - 2) Essential in membership.
6. **The church pictured in Ephesians 2.**
 - 1) The body (16).
 - 2) The temple (22).
 - 3) The building (20-21).
 - 4) The kingdom (19).
 - 5) The church (19).
 - 6) The household or family (19).
7. **What we WERE is not as important as what we ARE.**

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

W A W F H I I N C H R I S T E D J L C B
 B E B P X J N T H S D C T Y X F U B B O
 I D R O A S S T H H G U O R C T T R E A
 A T E E S R S U I V T S H E E O A O H S
 G W I E D O T V H M M D W H E Y E K O T
 M T C V I E D I E D E P A H D M U E L U
 S C O F S P A G T M Q P E I I G R N Y C
 A I M W O O O D O I R S A T N A P D U T
 M R F D B S H H U P O E I S G H I O E H
 I M A D E N I G H I Y N E E T E H W L H
 H C E E D N P T N T N C B B C U S N P P
 D N K R R I C H I N M E R C Y B N T M R
 E I F I E J S V I I R R X I M H A A E T
 P O S K N P B Y T H E C R O S S M L T V
 O R Y H C D M R E F Y J D Z H B K E Y W
 H E C A E G N O T O F W O R K S R V L O
 O S C C T O T E E P R A I S E A O E O X
 N E A N A T I R S H N I N A I L W R H J
 J E B W T E X M O S H A B I T A T I O N
 P K F U P C Q W I T H O U T G O D D R L

[The words (or word locaters) listed below are to be found in the text of our lesson. They also are found in the puzzle above. This is just one more way to reinforce what you have studied from the text. Why not read the whole verse where the word is found one more time as you do the puzzle? Thank you for the good effort you are putting forth in Bible study. Let's desire the sincere milk of the word that we may grow (1 Pet 2:2). DRL]

Ephesians 2

were dead, 1	no hope, 12
disobedience, 2	without God, 12
rich in mercy, 4	made nigh, 13
in Christ, 6	peace, 14
exceeding, 7	broken down, 14
kindness, 7	partition, 14
not of works, 9	by the cross, 16
boast, 9	access, 18
workmanship, 10	holy temple, 21
in time past, 11	habitation, 22

For a Crossword Puzzle on this chapter, visit: <http://lemmonsaid.wordpress.com/bible-crossword-puzzles/>